



## Procedure Committee

**Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt**  
**Leader of the House of Commons**  
*Via email only*

**23 May 2024**

Dear Penny,

### **Proxy Voting Arrangements - Extension**

As you are aware, the Proxy Voting arrangements contained in Standing Order No. 39A are time limited and due to expire at the end of this Parliament.<sup>1</sup> Given the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday of a General Election on 4 July, and the imminent prorogation and subsequent dissolution of the present Parliament, these arrangements are due to lapse in the coming days.

The Committee was in the process of consulting on the possible extension of the current arrangements into the next Parliament, and while there were suggestions for improvements to the operation of the scheme (such as the ability for a proxy vote to be held by a party's Whips Office, rather than by a single designated Member), the responses we have received to date broadly supported an extension of the arrangements into the next Parliament.

I am writing to you to urge the Government to bring forward a motion as soon as possible in the coming days to extend these arrangements – most simply by making Standing Order No. 39A permanent in nature - so that they can be relied upon by Members in the next Parliament from the very first day, should they be required.

We appreciate your engagement with the Committee throughout this Parliament on Proxy Voting and I hope you agree with us that this is a sensible and uncontroversial change to occur in the final days of the present Parliament.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours ever,

**Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP**  
**Chair of the Procedure Committee**

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<sup>1</sup> Order of 28 June 2023 (see [Item 17, Votes and Proceedings](#))